

Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Papiamentu words and phrases you may want to know!



Page 9

THE WEST DECK
ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR

WEEKLY SPECIALS

OPEN HOURS 10:30 AM - 11:00 PM

RESERVATIONS@THEWESTDECK.COM TEL. 587-2667 SPECIALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



**MARGARITA
MONDAY**

Starting at \$10



TACO TUESDAY

Beef, Chicken or Shrimp
Tacos starting at \$15



**WING
WEDNESDAY**

By the dozen \$18



Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now in its 20th plus year, owned and run by a local family.

Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM
Full Service Bar
Live Music on weekends

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com





House votes overwhelmingly to force release of Epstein files, sending bill to Senate

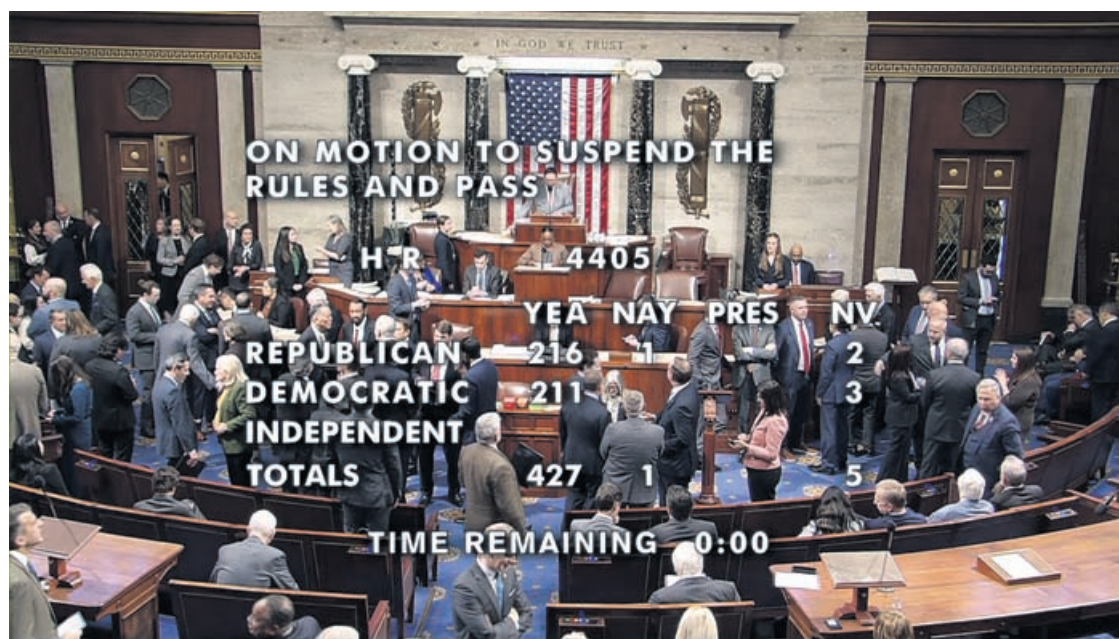
By **STEPHEN GROVES**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted overwhelmingly in favor of a bill Tuesday to force the Justice Department to publicly release its files on the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, a remarkable display of approval for an effort that had struggled for months to overcome opposition from President Donald Trump and Republican leadership.

When a small bipartisan group of House lawmakers introduced a petition in July to maneuver around House Speaker Mike Johnson's control of which bills reach the House floor, it appeared a longshot effort — especially as Trump urged his supporters to dismiss the matter as a "hoax." But both Trump and Johnson failed in their efforts to prevent the vote. Now the president has bowed to the growing momentum behind the bill and even said he will sign it if it also passes the Senate. Moments after the House vote, Senate Majority Leader John Thune said his chamber will act swiftly on the bill.

The bill passed the House 427-1, with the only no vote coming from Rep. Clay Higgins, a Louisiana Republican who is a fervent supporter of Trump. He also chairs a subcommittee that initiated a subpoena on the Justice Department for the Epstein files. The decisive, bipartisan work in Congress Tuesday further showed the pressure mounting on lawmakers and the Trump administration to meet long-held demands that the Justice Department release its case files on Epstein, a well-connected financier who killed himself in a Manhattan jail while awaiting trial in 2019 on charges he sexually abused and traf-



This image from House Television shows the final vote in the House to pass a bill to force the Justice Department to publicly release its files on the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

ficked underage girls.

"These women have fought the most horrific fight that no woman should have to fight. And they did it by banding together and never giving up," said Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene as she stood with some of the abuse survivors outside the Capitol Tuesday morning.

"That's what we did by fighting so hard against the most powerful people in the world, even the president of the United States, in order to make this vote happen today," added Greene, a Georgia Republican and longtime Trump loyalist.

A separate investigation conducted by the House Oversight Committee has released thousands of pages of emails and other documents from Epstein's estate, showing his connections to global leaders, Wall Street powerbrokers, influential political figures and Trump himself. In the United Kingdom, King Charles III stripped his disgraced brother Prince Andrew of his remaining titles and evicted him from his royal residence after pressure

to act over his relationship with Epstein.

Pushing for more accountability, the survivors of Epstein's abuse cast the current effort in Congress as necessary to reveal the full scope of Epstein's crimes after years of government failure under multiple presidential administrations. The bill forces the release within 30 days of all files and communications related to Epstein, as well as any information about the investigation into his death in federal prison. Trump's reversal on the Epstein files

Trump has said he cut ties with Epstein years ago, but tried for months to move past the demands for disclosure. On Monday, he told reporters that Epstein was connected to more Democrats and that he didn't want the Epstein files to "detract from the great success of the Republican Party."

Still, many in the Republican base have continued to demand the release of the files. Adding to that pressure, survivors of Epstein's abuse rallied outside the Capitol

Tuesday morning. Bundled in jackets against the November chill and holding photos of themselves as teenagers, they recounted their stories of abuse.

"We are exhausted from surviving the trauma and then surviving the political conflicts that surround it," said Jena-Lisa Jones, one of the survivors.

She added that she had voted for Trump, but had a message for the president: "I beg you Donald Trump, please stop making this political."

The group of women also met with Johnson and rallied outside the Capitol in September, but have had to wait months for the vote. That's because Johnson kept the House closed for legislative business for nearly two months and also refused to swear-in Democratic Rep. Adelita Grijalva of Arizona during the government shutdown. After winning a special election on Sept. 23, Grijalva had pledged to provide the crucial 218th vote to the petition for the Epstein files bill. But only af-

ter she was sworn into office last week could she sign her name to the discharge petition to give it majority support in the 435-member House. It quickly became obvious the bill would pass, and both Johnson and Trump began to fold. Trump on Sunday said Republicans should vote for the bill.

Yet Greene told reporters that Trump's decision to fight the bill had betrayed his Make America Great Again political movement. It's one of the reasons behind her prominent split with the president.

"Watching this turn into a fight has ripped MAGA apart," she said.

Senate plans to act quickly Johnson also pressed for the Senate to amend the bill to protect the information of "victims and whistleblowers." But Senate Majority Leader John Thune showed little interest in that notion, saying he doubted that "amending it is going to be in the cards." Thune said he would quickly assess senators' views on the bill to see if there were any objections and that the bill could be brought forward in the Senate as soon as Tuesday evening and almost certainly by the end of the week.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer also indicated he would attempt to pass the bill Tuesday.

"The American people have waited long enough," he said.

Meanwhile, the bipartisan pair who sponsored the bill, Reps. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., and Ro Khanna, D-Calif., warned senators against doing anything that would "muck it up," saying they would face the same public uproar that forced both Trump and Johnson to back down. □

Federal judges block Texas from using its new US House map in the 2026 midterms

By JOHN HANNA

Associated Press (AP)—A federal court on Tuesday blocked Texas from using a redrawn U.S. House map that touched off a nationwide redistricting battle and is a major piece of President Donald Trump's efforts to preserve a slim Republican majority ahead of the 2026 elections.

The ruling is a blow to Trump's rush to create a more favorable political landscape for Republicans in next year's midterms, at least for now. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott vowed a swift appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and defended the map that was engineered to give Republicans five additional House seats.

But in a 2-1 ruling, a panel of federal judges in El Paso sided with opponents who argued that Texas' unusual summer redrawing of congressional districts would harm Black and Hispanic residents. The decision was authored by U.S. District Judge Jeffrey V. Brown, who was nominated to the bench by Trump during his first term. "The public perception of this case is that it's about politics. To be sure, politics played a role in drawing the 2025 Map. But it was much more than just politics. Substantial evidence shows that Texas racially gerrymandered the 2025 Map," the ruling states.

The decision comes amid an widening national battle over redistricting. Missouri and North Carolina followed Texas with new maps adding an additional Republican seat each. To counter those moves, California voters approved a ballot initiative to give Democrats an additional five seats there. A coalition of civil rights groups representing Black and Hispanic voters argued the map reduced the influence of minority voters, making it a racial gerrymander that violates the federal Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution.

They sought an order blocking Texas from using the map while their case proceeded, which would force the state to use the map drawn by the



The State Capitol is seen in Austin, Texas, on June 1, 2021.

Associated Press.

GOP-controlled Legislature in 2021 for next year's elections.

"The Legislature redrew our congressional maps to better reflect Texans' conservative voting preferences – and for no other reason," Abbott said in a statement. "Any claim that these maps are discriminatory is absurd and unsupported by the testimony offered during ten days of hearings."

The panel of judges granted the critics' request, signaling that they think those critics have a substantial chance of winning their case at trial. An appointee of Democratic President Barack Obama joined Brown in the majority, while an appointee of Republican President Ronald Reagan dissented.

"Without an injunction, the racial minorities the Plaintiff Groups represent will be forced to be represented in Congress based on likely unconstitutional racial classifications for at least two years," the ruling said.

Republicans in Texas said repeatedly during the Legislature's debates this summer, and after, that they were redrawing districts solely to help Republicans win more seats. The U.S. Supreme Court gave states the go-ahead to pursue partisan gerrymandering by ruling in 2019 that it's a political issue beyond the reach of the federal courts.

But the two appeals judges concluded that a major reason that Abbott and Republican lawmakers moved was a letter from the head of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division in July, directing Texas to redraw four

and Mississippi.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declared that the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 does not allow separate minority groups to "aggregate their populations" to argue that a map illegally dilutes minority voters' ability to elect the candidate of their choice. The court said each group's situation must be analyzed separately.

Dhillon argued that so-called "coalition" districts, where no group has a majority but minority voters together outnumber non-Hispanic white voters, must be dismantled as "vestiges of an unconstitutional racially based gerrymandering past."

"The Legislature adopted those racial objectives," the majority said. "The re-

districting bill's sponsors made numerous statements suggesting that they had intentionally manipulated the districts' lines to create more majority-Hispanic and majority-Black districts."

Republicans hold 25 of Texas' 38 congressional seats, with Democrats holding two of their 13 seats in districts that Trump carried in 2024. Had the new map been in place last year, Trump would have carried 30 congressional districts by 10 percentage points or more, making it likely that the GOP would have won that many seats as well.

The new map decreased from 16 to 14 the number of congressional districts where minorities comprise a majority of voting-age citizens. □

WACKY WAHOO'S

Your first choice for locally caught fish and seafood on the island.
Very reasonably priced, exciting menu and no service charge added to your bill.



We are open from Monday - Saturday from 5.30pm - 10pm.
No reservation required! We operate on a first come first serve system.

Located within walking distance from the High Rise hotels at Palm Beach #33.
For more information call +297-586.7333

Be aware of scams on social media!

Don't click on sponsored ads that are using Aruba Today's likeness. Visit only our official Facebook Page, Aruba Today News or our website, www.arubatoday.com.

If you encounter any problems, we are here to help: news@arubatoday.com



Former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers steps down from public commitments after Epstein emails

By Kimberlee Kruesi and Roderique Ngowi
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Larry Summers, the former president of Harvard University who once served as U.S. treasury secretary, says he will step back from public commitments after the release of emails showing he maintained a friendly relationship with Jeffrey Epstein long after the financier pleaded guilty to soliciting prostitution from an underage girl in 2008.

Summers said in a statement that he would step back to "rebuild trust and repair relationships with the people closest to me."

"I am deeply ashamed of my actions and recognize the pain they have caused. I take full responsibility for my misguided decision to continue communicating with Mr. Epstein," Summers said. Summers did not detail exactly what stepping back would entail, saying he would continue to teach and promised to "rebuild

trust and repair relationships with the people closest to me."

However, the Center for American Progress, a progressive DC-based think tank, confirmed Tuesday that Summers was "ending his fellowship at CAP." A spokesperson for the Budget Lab at Yale also said Summers is no longer a member of the organization's advisory group.

OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, declined to say Tuesday if Summers was stepping down from its board of directors, referring questions to Summers spokesperson Kelly Friendly who said she did not have anything to add "beyond his statement."

Summers joined the OpenAI board in Nov. 2023, part of an effort to restore stability at the nonprofit and bring back its CEO Sam Altman after its previous board members fired Altman days earlier.

Summers' announcement came just days after President Donald Trump posted

on his Truth Social platform that he would ask the Justice Department and the FBI to investigate Summers' relationship with Epstein, along with former President Bill Clinton and LinkedIn founder and Democratic donor Reid Hoffman. U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi has since said she has ordered a top federal prosecutor to lead the investigation.

Epstein killed himself in a Manhattan jail while awaiting trial in 2019 on charges he sexually abused and trafficked underage girls.

Emails made public last week showed many in Epstein's vast network of wealthy and influential friends continued to stay in touch long after his 2008 guilty plea.

A 2019 email to Epstein showed Summers discussing interactions he had with a woman, writing that "I said what are you up to. She said 'I'm busy'. I said awfully coy u are." Epstein, who often wrote with spelling and grammatical errors, replied,



This combo shows Jeffrey Epstein, left, and U.S. economist Larry Summers.

(New York State Sex Offender Registry via AP/Michel Euler)

"you reacted well.. annoyed shows caring. , no whining showed strenght."

When asked about the emails last week, Summers issued a statement saying he has "great regrets in my life" and that his association with Epstein was a "major error in judgement."

Summers served as treasury secretary from 1999 to 2001 under President Clinton. He

was Harvard's president for five years from 2001 to 2006. He is currently a professor and is a director of the school's Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government. Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren, from Massachusetts, told CNN she believes Harvard should sever ties with Summers, saying he "cannot be trusted" with students.□



Fake pill bottles with messages about OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma are displayed during a protest outside the courthouse where the bankruptcy of the company is taking place in White Plains, N.Y., on Aug. 9, 2021.

Associated Press.

By GEOFF MULVIHILL

Associated Press (AP)—Members of the Sackler family who own OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma must pay billions of dollars to settle

a flood of lawsuits over the harms of opioids, in a new deal formally approved by a federal bankruptcy judge on Tuesday.

The Sacklers must contribute

Here's what's in the opioid settlement against OxyContin maker Purdue and the Sackler family

up to \$7 billion over 15 years. Most of the money will go to government entities to fight the opioid crisis, which has been linked to 900,000 deaths in the U.S. since 1999. Thousands of victims could be paid thousands of dollars each, with some distributions beginning next year for people who had OxyContin prescriptions and their survivors. "This plan is not perfect," U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sean Lane said as he laid out his reasoning for approving the settlement, which he indicated he would do last

week. "The court wishes it could do more to ease the suffering of the opioid crisis." Still, he said the settlement is equitable, in the parties' best interests, and overwhelmingly supported by groups with claims against Purdue.

The agreement replaces one the U.S. Supreme Court rejected last year, saying the earlier proposal would have improperly shielded Sackler family members from future lawsuits. The new agreement allows entities that do not opt into the payments

to still sue members of the family.

The deal is among the largest in a series of opioid settlements brought by state and local governments against drugmakers, wholesalers and pharmacies that totaled about \$50 billion.

Money will go to governments and some individuals Sackler family members were collectively paid more than \$10 billion by Purdue in the decade before they stopped involvement with the company in 2018. About half of that went to taxes.□

One of 25 abducted students in Nigeria escapes as the search continues for the missing girls

By Chinedu Asadu and Tunde Omolehin
Associated Press

MAGA, Nigeria (AP) — A schoolgirl who was abducted with 24 others from a dormitory in northwestern Nigeria has escaped and is safe, the school's principal told The Associated Press on Tuesday, as hunters joined security forces in the search for the missing students in forests close to the school.

The girls were kidnapped before dawn on Monday, when gunmen attacked the dorm at the Government Girls Comprehensive Secondary School in Kebbi state's Maga town. Local police said the gunmen scaled the fence to enter the school premises and exchanged gunfire with police officers before seizing the girls and killing a staff member.

No group has claimed responsibility for taking the girls, but analysts and locals say gangs of bandits often target schools, travelers and remote villagers in kidnappings for ransoms. Authorities say the bandits are mostly former herders who have taken up arms against farming communities after clashes between them over strained resources. Mass school kidnappings are especially common in northern Nigeria, and the Kebbi school is close to conflict hot spots in-



General view of the school from which school children were kidnapped by gunmen in Kebbi, Nigeria, Monday, Nov 17, 2025.

cluding Zamfara and Sokoto states, where several gangs are known to operate and hide out. The student who escaped arrived home late Monday, hours after the kidnapping, according to the school principal Musa Rabi Magaji. Another student was able to escape the gunmen in the minutes after the raid and was not abducted, the principal told AP.

"They are safe and sound," Magaji said.

A video verified by AP shows the two schoolgirls, who appear to be in their early

teens, lost in thought and surrounded by family and other villagers, with hijabs covering their heads. High schoolers in Nigeria are usually aged between 12 and 17.

Intensified rescue efforts Security forces and hunters, meanwhile, have intensified efforts to find and rescue the others, local officials said. Security teams swept nearby forests where gangs often hide while others were deployed along major roads leading to the school.

Kebbi Gov. Nasir Idris visited the school on Monday and

assured of efforts to rescue the girls, and Nigeria's Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Waidi Shaibu met with soldiers in the hours after the attack and directed "intelligence-driven operations and relentless day-and-night pursuit of the abductors," according to an army statement.

"We must find these children. Act decisively and professionally on all intelligence. Success is not optional," the army chief said.

Families recount predawn attack

By Tuesday morning, the

dorm and the classroom block — a walking distance apart — were deserted. In Maga, families waiting for news of their children's freedom expressed anger and frustration. Resident Abdulkarim Abdullahi, whose daughter and granddaughter — aged 13 and 10 respectively — were among the kidnapped children, said he overheard the noise from his house. "I was at home when I suddenly heard gunshots from the school. We were told that the attackers entered the school with many motorcycles," said Abdullahi. Amina Hassan, wife of the school vice principal Hassan Yakubu Makuku, said the assailants broke into their house, which is on the school premises, and fatally shot her husband. He was also the school's chief security officer. "Three of them entered and asked my husband, 'Are you Malam Hassan?' and he responded, 'Yes, I am.' They told him that we are here to kill you," she told the AP.

School abductions are a strategy to draw attention

At least 1,500 students have been seized in the region since Boko Haram jihadi extremists seized 276 Chibok schoolgirls over a decade ago. But bandits are also active in the region, and analysts say gangs often target schools to gain attention. □

(AP Photo/Deeni Jibo)

Syria opens first public trial over deadly coastal violence

By Ghaith Alsayed, Kareem Cheyaheb and Malak Harb
Associated Press

ALEPPO, Syria (AP) — The first trial was opened on Tuesday of some of the hundreds of suspects linked to deadly clashes in Syria's coastal provinces earlier this year that quickly spiraled into sectarian attacks.

State media reported that 14 people were brought to Aleppo's Palace of Justice following a monthslong, government-led investigation into the violence in March involving government forces and supporters of ousted Syrian President Bashar Assad. The investigating committee referred 563 suspects to the

judiciary.

Seven of the defendants in the court were Assad loyalists, while the other seven were members of the new government's security forces. The trial follows pressure from the public and the international community for the country's new rulers to commit to judicial reform after decades under the autocratic rule of the Assad dynasty.

Despite initial reports by the state media that charges could quickly be brought against the defendants, the judge adjourned the session and rescheduled the next hearing for December.

Charges against the sus-

pects could include sedition, inciting civil war, attacking security forces, murder, looting and leading armed gangs, according to state media.

The judge was heard during the televised proceedings asking the defendants if they were military or civilian. One suspect, an Assad loyalist, was accused of taking part in an ambush on government forces and trying to hide the weapons used.

During questioning by the judge of a suspect from the Syrian security forces accused of a targeted killing, a video showing the alleged killing was submitted as evidence. The suspect claimed



Security guards stand by a holding cell during Syria's first public trial related to deadly clashes in March along the country's coastal provinces, at the Palace of Justice in Aleppo, Syria, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025.

(AP Photo/Ghaith Alsayed)

the video was fabricated and denied killing anyone. "But you're clearly visible in

the video, showing you killing the person who is kneeling down," the judge said. □

Australian prisoner sues for his 'human right' to eat Vegemite

By Rod McGuirk
Associated Press
MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— A prisoner is challenging an Australian state's ban on inmates eating Vegemite, claiming in a court suit that withholding the polarizing yeast-based spread breaches his human right to "enjoy his culture as an Australian." Andre McKechnie, 54, serving a life sentence for murder, took his battle for the salty, sticky, brown byproduct of brewing beer to the Supreme Court of Victoria, according to documents released to The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Most Australians revere Vegemite as an unfairly maligned culinary icon, and more than 80% of Australian households are estimated to have a jar in their pantries. But inmates in all 12 prisons in Victoria are going without. McKechnie is suing Victoria's Department of Justice and Community Safety and the agency that manages the prisons, Corrections Victoria. The case is scheduled for trial next year.

Prisoner argues Vegemite ban breaches Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

Vegemite has been banned from Victorian prisons since 2006, with Corrections Victoria saying it "interferes with narcotic detection dogs." Inmates used to smear packages of illicit drugs with



A piece of toast is prepared with Vegemite in Sydney, Australia, Monday, Nov. 17, 2025. (AP Photo/Rick Rycroft)

Vegemite in the hope that the odor would distract the dogs from the contraband. Vegemite also contains yeast, which is banned from Victorian prisons because of its "potential to be used in the production of alcohol," the contraband list says.

A decade ago, Vegemite's then U.S. owner, Mondelez International, rejected media reports that remote Australian Indigenous communities were using Vegemite to brew alcohol in bathtubs. Mondelez said in a statement the manufacturing process killed the yeast and that "Vegemite cannot be fermented into alcohol."

McKechnie is seeking a court declaration that the defendants denied him his right under the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act to "enjoy his culture as an Australian."

The Act guarantees "All persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial or linguistic background" the right to "enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and to use their language." He also wants a declaration that the defendants breached the Corrections Act by "failing to provide food adequate to maintain" McKechnie's "well-being." The Australian

favorite since 1923 considered an acquired taste Manufactured in Australia since 1923 as an alternative to Britain's Marmite, Vegemite was long marketed as a source of vitamin B for growing children.

The spread is beloved by a majority of Australians, but typically considered an acquired taste at best by those who weren't raised on it. The last U.S. president to visit Australia, Barack Obama, once said: "It's horrible." Australian band Men at Work aroused international curiosity when they mentioned a "Vegemite sandwich" in their 1980s hit "Down Under."

The band's lead singer, Colin Hay, once accused American critics of laying Vegemite on too thick, blaming a "more is more" U.S. culture.

It's a favorite on breakfast toast and in cheese sandwiches, with most fans agreeing it's best applied sparingly. Australian travelers bemoan Vegemite's scarcity overseas.

The Australian government intervened in April when Canadian officials temporarily prevented a Toronto-based cafe from selling Vegemite in jars and on toast in a dispute media branded as "Vegemite-gate." The Canadians relented and allowed the product to be sold despite its failure to comply with local regulations dealing with food packaging and vitamin fortification.

Victims of crime say Vegemite lawsuit frivolous and offensive

Victims of crime advocate and lawyer John Herron said it was a frivolous lawsuit that was offensive to victims' families. "As victims, we don't have any rights. We have limited, if any, support. It's always about the perpetrator, and this just reinforces that," said Herron, whose daughter Courtney Herron, was beaten to death in a Melbourne park in 2019. Her killer was found not guilty of murder by reason of mental impairment. □



Prime Minister Donald Tusk, second right, visits site of the rail line Mika, that was damaged by sabotage, near Deblin, Poland, Monday, Nov. 17, 2025.

(AP Photo/KPRM)

By Claudia Ciobanu
Associated Press
WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Two Ukrainian citizens working for Russia are suspected of blowing up a railway line

in Poland over the weekend, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Tuesday. Speaking to the Sejm, the lower house of the Polish parliament, Tusk said the

Poland says 2 Ukrainians working for Russia are suspected in railway track blast

two suspects had been collaborating with the Russian secret services for a long time. He said their identities were known but could not be revealed to the public because of ongoing investigations. The pair have already left Poland, exiting via the Terespol border crossing to Belarus, he said. Tusk has described the weekend explosion on a rail line linking Poland's capital, Warsaw, to the border with Ukraine as an "unprecedented act of sabotage." In a separate incident, which Polish officials also now confirm as sabotage, power lines over another

segment of the same rail line further south were also damaged.

Western officials have accused Russia and its proxies of staging dozens of attacks and other incidents across Europe since the invasion of Ukraine more than three years ago, according to data collected by the AP. Moscow's goal, Western officials say, is to undermine support for Ukraine, spark fear and divide European societies.

A meeting of the governmental National Security Committee took place in Warsaw earlier Tuesday with the participation of

military commanders, heads of the intelligence services and a representative of the president.

Army patrols have been sent to check the safety of railways and other key infrastructure in the east of the country, the defense minister said.

Polish prosecutors have initiated an investigation into "acts of sabotage of a terrorist nature" directed against railway infrastructure and committed for the benefit of foreign intelligence.

The damage caused at both locations has been repaired. □



ARUBA
Beach Club Resort

Discover Aruba Beach Club, a family-friendly resort right on Aruba's white-sand beach.

For more information, visit our website arubabeachresort.com or contact our sales team today!

At Aruba Beach Club, your family can enjoy comfort, community, and affordability with timeshares that last for generations.

Choose from 3 spacious unit types, enjoy affordable ownership, and secure your vacation spot in paradise for life.

Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) – Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick “to-go” breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat

pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi bonch'i rabo (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead,

the evening “meal” can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di



cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (fruit cake), drigidek (ginger-bread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, baskets, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for

example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means “bag”. Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

Adriaan Laclé: One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century

(Oranjestad)—The name Adriaan Laclé may ring a bell to locals as one of the main roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adriaan Laclé was a rich businessman, well-known

for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood

upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his hay day he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected his success and good taste. Today his house still stands in good condition and can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad.

Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he

was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth. During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Laclé and Maria Veneranda Laclé, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's mansion functions as the townhall, used to host civil marriages,



while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them—though currently under renovation after years left in ruin. □

Source: De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba) by Evert Bongers.





QUALITY APARTMENTS AND SUITES



www.arubaqualityapartments.com

All Fully Furnished w/Kitchen, Airco, Cable Tv, FREE WIFI (in and outside rooms).
Swimming Pool, Gym, Library, Laundry Room & BBQ Sets.
Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 2 Large Supermarkets.

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OR VISIT US.
Mon-Fri: 8am - 7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am - 5pm. Worldwide calls: (297)-582-0697

+1 866 470 1411
Schotlandstraat 70, Oranjestad, Aruba

Email: info@arubaqualityapartments.com | Whatsapp: (297) 593 9647
Website: www.arubaqualityapartments.com

The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life

(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect

itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major prob-



lem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny

fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the

world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life. □



Ever heard of the cah'i orgel? A key instrument in Aruban folklore music

(Oranjestad)—The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most

popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina", and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao, he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo

Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem. Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is an instrument that

needs preserving. As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. Made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also find someone playing the



triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more. Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingling box." □

Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.

Celebrating Forty Years – Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all Qualified Club Members

**WILDER
Wednesday**

— WIN A SHARE OF UP TO —

**\$1,000 in
Free Slot Play**

Every Wednesday | 10am to Midnight

Earn 25 points and swipe at any kiosk to play.
Play up to five times each Wednesday.

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento—at least not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"



The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

Bon tardi

In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atar-di", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

Bon nochi.

You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation.

However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much".

Rock stacking and its harmful effects



(Oranjestad)—The organization Aruba Birdlife Conservation has in the past raised concerns about the phenomenon of "rock stacking" in the area of Baby Beach and warned about the dangers it poses, especially for children.

As known, "rock stacking" is not illegal in Aruba, but its impact on nature is harmful as the stones form part of the natural habitat of small animal species living in Aruba's wilderness. Experts warn that "rock stacking" could even lead certain species to extinction.

In Aruba, much of the "rock stacking" also occurs near Arikok National Park. Although this activity is not illegal in Aruba, it may be time for park authorities to impose stricter regulations on this activity.

Tourists often believe that the meaning behind this activity is making a wish, but they do not realize its negative impact.

Aruba Birdlife Conservation's post not only raises alarms about the activity but also now that this phenomenon has reached Baby Beach, some of the stacked stone towers are up to 1.7 meters high, which can be very dangerous, especially for children.



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Episode CCCXX-330

Where the Wind Carves Legends: The Watapana and Fofoti of Aruba

The narrative of Etnia Nativa—which means Native Ethnicity—highlights the importance of recovering and preserving Aruba's cultural identity and heritage. In this episode, we delve into two iconic trees of the island.

On the sun-drenched, wind-battered shores of Aruba, there are two iconic trees that have captured the hearts of visitors and locals alike: the Watapana and the Fofoti. Yet, there's a curious twist to their story — one that blends history, mistaken identity, and the resilience of these stunning natural wonders. Both trees have roots that run deep in the island's history, each symbolizing the essence of Aruba, and their story is one of survival against the odds.

Aruba's Watapana tree (officially known as *Caesalpinia coriaria*) is often mistakenly called the Divi Divi tree — a name actually tied to its famous seed pods, which once held great economic importance. The name "Divi Divi" was first used by the indigenous people of Aruba to refer specifically to the pods of the Watapana tree, prized for their high tannin content. This tannin was widely used in Europe for leather tanning, and for more than a century, Aruba's Watapana pods were exported across the seas.

The tree became so valuable in the 19th century that cutting a branch without a special permit was illegal. This respect for the Watapana extended beyond its economic worth — the tree also played a critical ecological role, enriching the soil and helping protect the island from erosion. Its importance to Aruba's survival and identity was so profound that the island's Parliament eventually declared it the national tree of Aruba.

Yet over time, the Watapana has been overshadowed by another tree — the Fofoti. While both trees are often confused due to their similar coastal habitats and striking forms, it is the Fofoti that typically steals the spotlight in photographs, especially those taken at the iconic Eagle Beach.

The Fofoti, or green buttonwood tree (*Conocarpus erectus*), is regularly associated with mangroves, as they often share the same habitat. Thanks to its high tolerance for salt, the Fofoti symbolizes Aruba's ability to thrive under harsh conditions. Its twisted, gnarled bark and low-branching trunk have made it a favorite among photographers and visitors alike. Found along the island's coastlines, the Fofoti is uniquely adapted to survive extreme dryness, high salinity, alkaline soils, and intense sun — all while providing shelter and food for various pollinators.

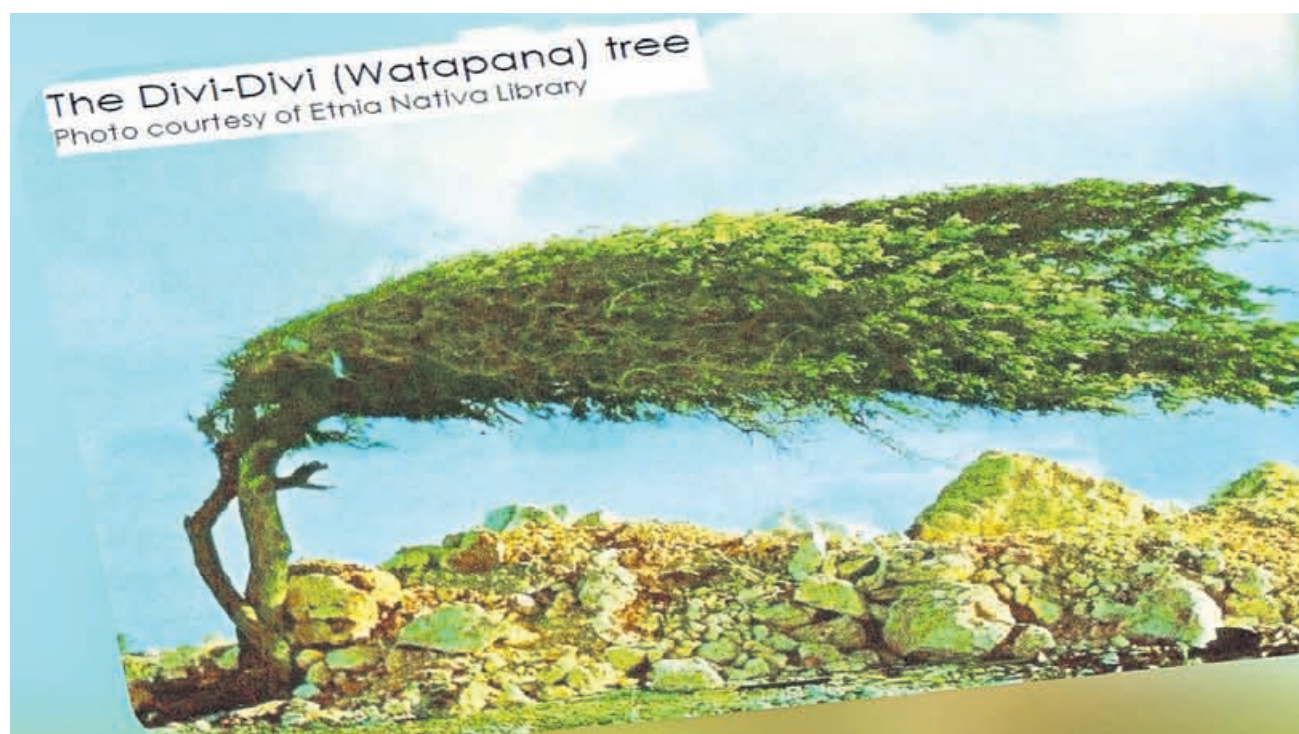
Despite its global distribution in tropical and subtropical regions, the Fofoti has become an iconic symbol of Aruba's strength. Its roots reach deep into the soil, both literally and metaphorically, holding the shoreline together against the relentless waves. Its resilience in the face of difficult conditions mirrors Aruba's own — an island that has weathered hurricanes, droughts, and the pressures of modern development, yet continues to flourish.



Today, both trees stand proudly as symbols of Aruba's identity, each with a rich history and a tale to tell. The Watapana's legacy lives on in the island's history books, its dried leaves still enriching the soil, its pods once again becoming a precious commodity. The Fofoti, on the other hand, stands tall in photos from Eagle Beach to Malmok, its gnarled branches an emblem of the island's coastal beauty.

The real story isn't about mistaken identities, but about resilience. The Watapana and Fofoti, each unique, embody the enduring spirit of Aruba — a spirit that, like these trees, will thrive for generations to come.

So, the next time you see a photo of these iconic trees — whether it's the Watapana with its rich history or the Fofoti with its twisted, windswept charm — remember and try to identify these two separate and different trees species from each other symbols of Aruba's heart, soul, and timeless beauty. □



Discover Aruba's true heritage at Etnia Nativa, founded in 1994. A cultural pioneer, it co-founded the National Park, Archaeological Museum, and many initiatives for heritage and conservation. Experience the island's soul like never before.

WhatsApp: +297 592 2702 or
Email: etnianativa03@gmail.com

The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king
One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a

moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

“Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?
“Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.”

The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what; there are so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!”

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's throne and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king. □

Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto.

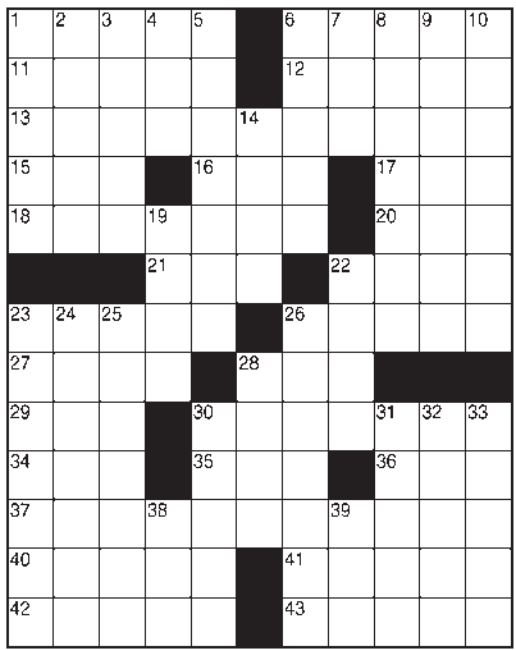


CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 37 Breakfast appliances
- 1 Improvises in jazz
- 6 Horse's cousin
- 11 Blockhead
- 12 Fairy tale monsters
- 13 Poplar trees
- 15 Museum focus
- 16 King of France
- 17 Have debts
- 18 Put in other words
- 20 Clamor
- 21 Wisdom bringer
- 22 Let off steam
- 23 Soup server
- 26 Takes the bus
- 27 Lotion additive
- 28 "The Raven" writer
- 29 Yang's counterpart
- 30 Dangerous apps
- 34 Lincoln nickname
- 35 Angled pipe
- 36 Sheep sound

- DOWN
- 1 Parish leader
- 2 Find darling
- 3 Catchers' needs
- 4 Cooking vessel
- 5 Closet use
- 6 "Holy moly!"
- 7 Sense of self
- 8 Was in a funk
- 9 Merlot, e.g.
- 10 Concurs
- 14 Jot down
- 19 Story
- 22 Look upon
- 23 Purchase plan
- 24 Cave raider of story
- 25 Doomed
- 26 Jazz saxophonist
- 28 Washed out
- 30 Thaws
- 31 Dwelling group
- 33 Moved slowly
- 38 Merriment
- 39 Deep groove



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-28 CRYPTOQUOTE

XPKKDOHGG DG YXHO YXPZ
LRA ZXDOJ, YXPZ LRA GPL,
POU YXPZ LRA UR PEH DO
X PETROL. — TPXPZTP
WPOUXD

Cryptoquote: IF YOU LEARN
SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY, YOU CAN
TEACH SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY.
— MARTHA STEWART



Cruise ship Schedule: Nov. 17 - 23 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
MON	17	CELEBRITY ASCENT	08.00	18.00	C	1
TUE	18	BRITANNIA	07.00	18.00	B	1
		SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	19	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	23.00	B	1
		OCEANIA ALLURA	10.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	20	AIDASOL	08.00	18.00	B	1
		CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	22	AIDAPERLA	09.00	22.00	C	1
		ROYAL CLIPPER	09.00	18.00	B	1
SUN	23	MSC DIVINA	08.00	18.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★

11/19

Answer to previous puzzle

9	4	2	7	1	8	3	6	5
7	6	8	2	3	5	4	9	1
1	5	3	4	9	6	7	2	8
8	2	7	6	4	3	1	5	9
4	3	1	5	2	9	8	7	6
5	9	6	8	7	1	2	4	3
2	1	5	9	8	7	6	3	4
3	7	9	1	6	4	5	8	2
6	8	4	3	5	2	9	1	7

Difficulty: ★★

11/18

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Kids get diseases like lupus, too. As researchers hunt better treatments, this camp brings joy

By S. Lum and L. Neergaard
Associated Press

(AP) - A doctor advising ... sleepaway camp? That's how a 12-year-old diagnosed with lupus found himself laughing on a high-ropes course as fellow campers hoisted him into the air.

"It's really fun," said Dylan Aristy Mota, thrilled that he got a chance at the rite of childhood — thanks to doctors reassuring his mom that they'd be at this upstate New York camp, too. Dylan felt good knowing if "anything else pops up, they can catch it faster than if we had to wait til we got home."

It may sound surprising but diseases like lupus, myositis and some forms of arthritis — when your immune system attacks your body instead of protecting it — don't just strike adults. With the exception of Type 1 diabetes, these autoimmune diseases are more rare in kids but they do happen.

People often ask, "Can kids have arthritis? Can kids have lupus?" said Dr. Natalia Vasquez-Canizares, a pediatric rheumatologist at Children's Hospital at Montefiore, which partnered with Frost Valley YMCA last summer so some of those youngsters could try a traditional sleepaway camp despite a strict medicine schedule and nervous parents. "Imag-

ine for an adult, it's difficult. If you have that disease since you're young, it's very difficult to, you know, cope with," she said.

Special challenges for kids The younger that someone is when certain illnesses hit, especially before puberty, the more severe symptoms may be. And while genes can make people of any age more vulnerable to autoimmune conditions, usually it takes other factors that stress the immune system, such as infections, to cause the disease to develop. But genes are more to blame when disease strikes early in life, said Dr. Laura Lewandowski of the National Institutes of Health who helps lead international research into genetic changes that fuel childhood lupus.

Symptoms among children can be sneaky and hard to pinpoint. Rather than expressing joint pain, a very young child might walk with a limp or regress to crawling, Vasquez-Canizares said.

"Before, I looked like everybody else, like normal," Dylan said. Then, "my face turned like the bright pink, and it started to like get more and more red."

His family thought it must be allergies, and Dylan recalled many doctor appointments before being diagnosed with lupus last January. □

CLASSIFIEDS

Marriott surf club
Palm beach
Gold season
3 BR 3 bath sleep 12
Ocean view
Price :\$25,0000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

219744

Le Vent Condo
Eagle beach
2 BR 2 1/2 bath on the 3 th floor
Ocean view
Price :\$ 1.250.000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

219901



Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo
Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @ArubaTodayNews

House For sale
Sero preto sanicolaas
10 min drive to baby beach
3 BR 2 bath with Terrance
Ocean view lease land 500 m2
Price : Awg 450,000
Call :011-297-6301307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Appartments complex
Monserrat Noord
Pre- construction
5 min walk to palm beach
2x 2 BR 1 bath 3 x 1 BR 1 bath
602 m2 commercial land
Price :\$700 K turn key
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale
San Fuego natural park
3 BR 3 Bath with 1 rest room
Pool on a property land 4136 m2
Price : \$1.3 million
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale
Washington noord
5 min drive to palm / eagle beach
3 BR 3 bath with 2 Appartments
With pool
Price :\$700 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

All time shares owner
Are you serious about
Selling your time share ?
Contact the expert !
40 years of doing business
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale
Wegkustbaterij San Nicolaas
10 min drive to baby beach
Under construction
Two stories 4 BR 2 bath with
Ocean view
Price : Awg 275,000 as is
where is
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For sale
Eagle beach
Commercial land to build
12 office spaces
(map approved)
6 under ground and 6 first floor
12,630,92 m2 (53,820 sq feet)
Price :\$750,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

219744



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Kibrahacha: Tel.583 4908
San Nicolas:
Seroe Preto:Tel.584 4833

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on
Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS

How to reach us!

Violence Against Women

MI5 warns UK lawmakers that Chinese spies are trying to reach them via LinkedIn

By Silvia Hui
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's domestic intelligence agency on Tuesday warned U.K. lawmakers that Chinese spies were actively reaching out to "recruit and cultivate" them via headhunters or cover companies.

Writing to lawmakers, House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle said a new MI5 "espionage alert" warned that Chinese nationals were "using LinkedIn profiles to conduct outreach at scale" on behalf of the Chinese Ministry of State Security.

"Their aim is to collect information and lay the groundwork for long-term relationships, using professional networking sites, recruitment agents and consultants acting on their behalf," he said. MI5 issued the alert because the activity was "targeted and widespread," he added.

The Chinese Embassy in London dismissed the allegations as "pure fabrication and malicious slander" and warned the U.K. against further undermining bilateral relations.

The MI5 alert cited LinkedIn profiles of two women, Amanda Qiu and Shirly Shen, and said other similar recruiters' profiles were acting as fronts for espionage.



Flags of China and the Union Jack stand during the China-UK Energy Dialogue in Beijing, China, March 17, 2025.

(Florence Lo/Pool Photo via AP, file)

Home Office Minister Dan Jarvis said that apart from parliamentary staff, others including economists, think tank consultants and government officials have been similarly targeted.

"This activity involves a covert and calculated attempt by a foreign power to interfere with our sovereign affairs in favor of its own interests, and this government will not tolerate it," Jarvis told Parliament.

British intelligence officials have in recent years steadily

ramped up their warnings about espionage threats from China, the U.K.'s third largest trading partner.

Jarvis said the government is rolling out a series of measures to tackle the risk, including investing 170 million pounds (\$224 million) to renew encrypted technology used by civil servants to safeguard sensitive work. Opposition parties say authorities are not doing enough and are too wary of jeopardizing trade ties with China.

Spying charges dropped in

September

The latest warning came after critics widely questioned how the prosecution of two men charged with spying for Beijing in Britain collapsed just before they were due to stand trial.

Academic Christopher Berry and parliamentary researcher Christopher Cash were charged last year with providing information or documents to China that could be "prejudicial to the safety or interests" of the U.K. Their case was dropped in Sep-

tember.

The Director of Public Prosecutions Stephen Parkinson said it was because the government refused to testify under oath that China was a threat to national security at the time of the alleged offenses, between 2021 and 2023. Prime Minister Keir Starmer has denied claims of government interference in the case.

In January 2022, the Security Service issued a similar security alert to all lawmakers warning that a London-based lawyer was knowingly engaged in "political interference activities in the U.K." in coordination with the Chinese Communist Party's United Front Work Department, an organization known to exert Chinese influence abroad.

The lawyer, Christine Lee, was accused of facilitating covert donations to British parties and legislators "on behalf of foreign nationals." MI5 Director-General Ken McCallum told reporters last month that Chinese state actors present a national security threat to the U.K. "every day."

McCallum said Beijing-backed meddling has included cyberespionage, stealing technology secrets and "efforts to interfere covertly in U.K. public life." □



The gaming platform Roblox is displayed on a tablet, Oct. 30, 2021, in New York.

(AP Photo/Leon Keith, File)

By Barbara Ortutay
Associated Press

(AP) - Roblox is stepping up its age verification system for users who want to privately message other players and implementing age-

based chats so kids, teens and adults will only be able to message people around their own age.

The moves come as the popular gaming platform continues to face criticism

Roblox steps up age checks and groups younger users into age-based chats

and lawsuits over child safety and a growing number of states and countries are implementing age verification laws.

The company had previously announced the age estimation tool, which is provided by a company called Persona, in July. It requires players to take a video selfie that will be used to estimate their age. Roblox says the videos are deleted after the age check is processed. Users are not required to submit a face scan to use the platform, only if they want to chat with other users.

Roblox doesn't allow kids under 13 to chat with other users outside of games un-

less they have explicit parental permission — and unlike different platforms, it does not encrypt private chat conversations, so it can monitor and moderate them. While some experts have expressed caution about the reliability of facial age estimation tools, Matt Kaufman, chief safety officer at Roblox, said that between the ages of about five to 25, the system can accurately estimate a person's age within one or two years.

"But of course, there's always people who may be well outside of a traditional bell curve. And in those cases, if you disagree with the

estimate that comes back, then you can provide an ID or use parental consent in order to correct that," he said. After users go through the age checks, they will be assigned to age groups ranging from under nine, nine to 12, 13 to 15, 16 to 17, 18 to 20 and over 21. Users will then be able to chat with their age group or similar age groups, depending on their age and the type of chat.

Roblox said it will start enforcing age checks in Australia, New Zealand, and the Netherlands in the first week of December and the rest of the world in early January. □



TOURIST SIM

EXPERIENCE ARUBA LIKE NO OTHER

Data	Unlimited*	Unlimited*
SETAR min	200	300
Other min	30	60
SMS	50	50
Duration	7 Days	14 Days
Price	\$30	\$50



* Every bundle offers a 5GB daily data allowance based on our Fair Use Policy.
* International Minutes and SMS includes calls and text to other providers and the following countries: Bonaire, Canada, Colombia, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, The Netherlands, Panama, USA.

LPGA has a depth of talent. What it could use is a star

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — What the LPGA Tour sees as a strength might be what keeps it from gaining more traction during this surge in women's sports.

Yes, there is a depth of talent — more power, greater precision, lower scoring.

That much was on display Monday night during the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship when 11 first-time LPGA winners graced the stage at a glitzy awards dinner. Two of them, Mao Saigo and Miyuu Yamashita, are major champions.

They are among 29 winners in 30 tournaments (including a team event in Michigan) in a most unusual year. It took until October — the 26th official tournament of the season — before the LPGA had a multiple winner in Jeeno Thitikul, the world's No. 1 player.

Equally amazing, Nelly Korda is not among the winners after seven titles in 2024.

"It's been an interesting year on the LPGA," Annika Sorenstam said after watching a fellow Swede, Linn Grant, win her tournament on Sunday to be unique winner No. 29.

"I think after '24, I don't think people thought what we've seen this year would be what it is," Sorenstam said. "It shows the depth of the tour. I think we're in a little bit of a transition between some players and generations maybe."

This is the third time in four years the LPGA has produced at least 11 first-time winners in a season, so maybe Sorenstam is onto something.

But depth can be a convenient way of saying that winning is hard. That's been the case for most of the 75 years the LPGA has been in



Linn Grant, left, and Annika Sorenstam, right, hold the championship trophy after Grant's win on the final day of The Annika LPGA golf tournament in Belleair, Fla., Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025.

(AP Photo/Willie J. Allen Jr.)

existence, and it's no different from any other golf tour. Tiger Woods in his healthy, peak years only won 27% of the time.

What this year illustrated going into the season finale is the LPGA is in dire need of a star. Dominance is far more appealing than depth, and sometimes even that isn't enough.

For all her dominance, it took Sorenstam playing on the PGA Tour at Colonial in 2003 to become a star. Scottie Scheffler already was a two-time Masters champion and winning at an alarming rate. His Q-rating really soared after his bizarre arrest during the PGA Championship at Valhalla. Finding a star? Now that's hard.

Korda would have seemed to fit the mold last year when she won seven times, including a record-tying five in a row that culminated with her capturing another major. But for all her

graceful athleticism and power — and her heritage as the daughter of a Grand Slam tennis champion — she is not one to perform for the camera.

The 27-year-old American is more cool customer than celebrity.

Could she do more? Sure. Everyone can. But the last thing any sport needs are top players trying to become someone they're not. If the LPGA is in transition, that starts at the top. Craig Kessler was hired as the new commissioner this summer and already is looking at foundational changes geared toward the long run.

He has hired Monica Fee, who spent 15 years in brand partnerships at Creative Artists Agency and the last four years building such partnerships at Saudi-funded LIV Golf. Sean Bratches, the highly regarded television executive who directed commercial operations

for Formula 1 during its rise in North America, was added to the LPGA board of directors.

Kessler on Tuesday announced a big partnership with FM, the Rhode Island-based mutual insurance company that already has bought into the LPGA with a title sponsorship at the TPC Boston with the largest purse (\$4.1 million) this side of a major.

The latest agreement with FM is to ramp up the television product in North America, long overdue. Starting next year, every LPGA event in North America will be shown live (instead of the occasional tournament on tape delay). That will mean going over to CNBC at times.

More than just live TV is a 50% increase in cameras to provide for more shots and different angles, a deal with Trackman to provide the popular shot tracing that has become standard on

the PGA Tour, and drone coverage. It's an important upgrade.

"Fans will immediately see and feel the difference — more cameras, better technology, richer storytelling and more ways to appreciate the unbelievable skill of our players, fully live," Kessler said. "This is a major step forward for the women's game, and it's only the beginning. The next chapter for the LPGA is going to be something special."

Any step is important. Kessler also is letting players know what can be expected from them. There is personality and marketability. It has to start with performance. But the third area equally important is effort, a willingness to do more because more is required when trying to carve out a spot in an increasingly crowded space of women's sports.

Kessler gave the Commissioner's Award on Monday night to LPGA Hall of Fame members. Among those on stage was Nancy Lopez, perhaps the last LPGA player who ticked every box. She captivated women's golf in 1978, made the cover of Sports Illustrated with her game, her smile, a captivating presence and a willingness to carry her sport.

She wasn't the best, but there was none like her and may not be another for some time. It also was a different era for the LPGA, not the destination like it is now for players from Asia and Europe and every corner of the world.

The moment for another star or collection of them will present itself in time, that unique combination of play and personality. The key will be a willingness for players to embrace it. Kessler's job is to make sure the LPGA is ready for it. □

The Colts' Isabel Diaz rose quickly to become 1 of 11 women with full-time coaching jobs in the NFL

By **ROB MAADDI**
Associated Press

(AP) - A craving for doughnuts helped introduce Isabel Diaz to football as a kid in kindergarten. Quickly, she was hooked — on the NFL, not the sugary treat. Now Diaz is in her third season with the Indianapolis Colts as the Harriet P. Irsay Fellow. She assists special teams coordinator Brian Mason and senior assistant special teams coach Joe Hastings with practice and game planning. The Colts are 8-2 and lead the AFC South going into an important matchup against Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs (5-5) this week.

Diaz's journey began at her grandparents' house in a



Indianapolis Colts assistant coach Isabel Diaz stands on the sideline during an NFL football game between the Indianapolis Colts and the Atlanta Falcons, Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025, in Berlin, Germany.

(AP Photo/Martin Meissner)

the defense from 2021-23, where she assisted with the scout team, created practice scripts, helped with game planning and charted plays on game day. From 2019-21, Diaz was a videographer for the football and women's soccer programs. She filmed game days for both teams as well as practice for football.

"I kept asking for that next step and then eventually by my senior year, I had a seat at the table," Diaz said. "My desk was literally at the defensive staff table in the defensive staff meeting room. And that's just because I asked questions. I wasn't afraid to speak up for myself because you're the only advocate for yourself. Obviously, you're gonna get people behind you that support you, but they have to believe that you can do it and believe that you really truly want to do it and be here for the right reasons."

"I love the game just like anybody else. And that's why I'm here, because I love the game and I love everything that it stands for and what it is, and it's a team sport and we're all doing it together. And to see right now the success that we're having, I've seen it grow and I've seen us find that culture and that groove, and here we are, like we're winning games. We're doing a great job. That's why we're here. Whether you're a female, a male, wherever you came from, we're all doing it together."

NFL officials frequently state that increasing opportunities for women and minorities is a priority. The league's annual Women's Forum held at the scouting combine in Indianapolis is a main initiative.

Over the past five years, there has been a 289% increase in women in football operations and coaching roles.

A total of 358 women are in football operations and coaching roles this season. Diaz is one of 11 female full-time coaches. □

Experience Aruban culture with this exciting theme night featuring a Carnival show, mixology bar, local artists and more. You can sample Aruban cuisine, including delicious BBQ options with a tropical twist. A local brass band will be performing, and you can pose with elaborately dressed Carnival dancers for a memorable photo op as well, so don't miss it.

USD \$59pp*
Kids 6-12 yrs. pay ½ price

Book your table at
RenArubaEvents.com
and party like a local!



Renaissance Ocean Suites Beach
Thursday Nights, 6:30-10pm

**DUSHI ARUBA THIS WAY:
PARTY LIKE A LOCAL.**



R
RENAISSANCE
WIND CREEK ARUBA RESORT

*Plus 17% service charge